

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 ICA-11 AGRE-00 /106 W
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R 260848Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2565
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USEC

E.O. 11652: N//A
TAGS: EPAP BC
SUBJ: BOTSWANA BEEF

REF: GABORONE 1595

1. GOB HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DELEGATION HEADED BY V.P. MASIRE AND INCLUDING EXTAFF MIN MOGWE WILL VISIT ALL NINE EEC CAPITALS FOR CONSULTATIONS ON BOTSWANA BEEF SITUATION. OTHER ANNOUNCED MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE E.S. MASISI, CHAIRMAN OF BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION T.S. MADISA, AND CHIEF GOB VETERINARIAN DR. JACK FALCONER. ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO ALERT EEC GOVERNMENT TO "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS" OF CONTINUING EEC BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS FROM BOTSWANA BECAUSE OF HOOF AND MOUTH INFECTION.

2. ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS REPORT, DELEGATION MEMBER FAL-
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CONER SAID MAJOR EUROPEAN IMPORTERS OF BOTSWANA BEEF, U.K. AND FRANCE, ARE NOW READY TO RESUME IMPORTING, BUT OTHER EEC COUNTRIES MUST FIRST AGREE THROUGH MECHANISM OF EEC STANDING VETERINARY COMMITTEE. GOB MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MASISI SAID RECENTLY THAT GOB IS "PUZZLED" BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE EXCESSIVE CAUTION BY EEC VET COMMITTEE, AND JUNE 23 DAILY NEWS AGAIN REFERS TO

"BEWILDERMENT" AMONG GOB OFFICIALS OVER CONTINUING IMPORT BAN.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 26 DEPARTURE OF GOB DELEGATION FOLLOWS JUNE 21 VISIT TO GABORONE BY OUTGOING EEC DELEGATE TO BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND DAVID ANDERSON. IN FAREWELL CALLS ON PRESIDENT KHAMA AND V.P. MASIRE, ANDERSON REPORTED NO PROGRESS IN CONSIDERATION OF GOB'S REQUEST FOR RELAXATION OF IMPORT BAN.

ACCORDING TO ANDERSON, EEC IS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY BECAUSE OF APPREHENSION AMONG EUROPEAN FARMERS THAT HOOF AND MOUTH WILL BE IMPORTED ALONG WITH BOTSWANA'S BEEF.

4. COMMENT: INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH V.P. MASIRE AND EXTAFF MIN MOGWE MAKES THIS DELEGATION EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH POWERED AND ILLUSTRATES IMPORTANCE OF BEEF EXPORT RESUMPTION TO BOTSWANA'S ECONOMY. MASIRE AND MOGWE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE TRYING TO CONVINCE EEC GOVERNMENTS THAT BEEF IMPORT ISSUE SHOULD BE VIEWED AS MORE THAN TECHNICAL, DISEASE CONTROL PROBLEM. THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT GOB SEES RESUMPTION OF BOTSWANA BEEF IMPORTS BY EEC AS ONE OF ITS HIGHEST PRIORITY POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. WE ARE NOT, OF COURSE, IN POSITION TO PREDICT RESPONSE OF EEC GOVERNMENTS TO BOTSWANA'S REQUEST AND VISIT OF MASIRE/MOGWE DELEGATION AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION ON SUBJECT WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO ADDRESSEE POSTS.
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NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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